

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 16, 20, and 31 have been amended. Claims 2-15 depend from claim 1, claims 17-19 depend from claim 16, claims 21-30 depend from claim 20, and claims 32-34 depend from claim 31. No new matter has been entered.

In the office action, dated August 28, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5-18, 20-21, 25 and 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bo et al. (USP 6,265,845). Bo teaches a portable battery charger 10 having a separate battery pack 20. In fact, Bo discloses that “[i]t is still an object of the present invention to provide a battery charging unit compatibly used for various electronic instruments such as mobile station, notebook computer, electric shaver, etc.” (col. 1, ll. 44-47). Furthermore, Bo’s “charging unit 20 may be independently and readily used to supply power to various electronic devices such as electric shaver, notebook computer, mobile station, etc. while traveling” (col. 4, ll. 16-19). Bo’s charging unit 20 thus includes power storage capabilities to provide for the use of a portable power supply, i.e., a separate battery pack. Specifically, Bo’s separate charging unit 20 houses capacity for power storage, i.e., a separate battery pack, and such battery pack is capable of independent use for powering various portable electronic devices.

The input assemblies described in the pending application lack such power storage capacity. In the pending case, power is supplied to a charging unit via the claimed adapter 32 and only by the input assembly’s connection to an electrical outlet, which connection is facilitated by different plug elements that are detachable and interchangeable. No separate, portable battery pack is provided. Furthermore, persons skilled in the art know that electric adapters, such as those claimed, do not include power storage capacity.

Importantly, the device disclosed in Bo is very different from the device disclosed in the pending application. Bo uses three parts: 1) a charger housing 10 where a battery of a device is positioned; 2) a charging unit, which the Examiner asserts is the same as the first input assembly/adaptor of the pending claims; and 3) a power cord 13A, 13B. The device of the pending application uses 1) a charging unit 30 and 2) a power cord 32, 44, 46 that includes the adapter that allows the charger to be coupled to various wall plug styles for use in different countries.

Unlike Bo's charging unit 20, the power cord/adaptor 32, 44, 46 of the pending application is simply a means for facilitating a connection between an electrical outlet and the charging unit 30. The power cord/adaptor contains no circuitry and uses wires and electrical contacts to channel power from the wall outlet to the charging unit 30. A fair comparison of Bo's disclosure with the pending case should involve a side-by-side examination of Bo's power cord 13A, 13B with the power cord/adaptor 32, 44, 46. The claims are amended to clarify the distinctions.

Moreover, Bo teaches a portable battery charger formed of two pieces: 1) a charger housing 10 and 2) a separate battery pack 20. The pending application discloses a single integral charging unit having no separate power storage feature and fewer parts for replacement if lost or broken during transport, storage or use.

Claims 1, 2, 16, 20 and 31 have been amended to present the claims in better form for consideration by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the Bo reference does not anticipate the pending claims. Applicants accordingly submit that claims 1-2, 5-18, 20-21, 25 and 28-31 are in form for allowance.

Claims 3-4, 19, and 32-34 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bo in view of Huang (US 2002/0115480). The Examiner cited Huang to show the use of USB connectivity. Neither Bo nor Huang, however, teach or suggest their combination. A person skilled in the art would not possess the claimed subject matter based on the combination of Bo and Huang. Moreover, as discussed above, Bo does not teach the elements of the amended claims. Huang does not add the missing elements. Applicants thus submit that claims 3-4, 19, and 32-34 are in form for allowance.

Claims 22-24 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bo in view of McKee et al. (USP 4,893,351). The Examiner cited McKee to show a latching mechanism. Nonetheless, neither Bo nor McKee teach or suggest their combination. The combination of Bo and McKee does not render the claimed subject matter obvious to a person skilled in the art. Again, Bo does not teach all elements of the amended claims, and McKee does not supply the missing elements. Applicants thus submit that claims 22-24 are in condition for allowance.

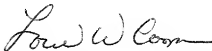
Claims 26 and 27 were rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Bo in view of Wei et al. (USP 6,371,535). Wei also shows a latching mechanism. Yet, a person skilled in the art would not possess the claimed subject matter based on the teaching of Bo and Wei.

Furthermore, neither Bo nor Wei teach or suggest their combination. Bo fails to teach the elements of the amended claims. Wei does not provide the elements that are missing. Applicants accordingly submit that claims 22-24 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. Please feel free to call the undersigned attorney with any concerns regarding the pending application.

No fees are believed to be due with the submission of this Amendment. A fee for an RCE is submitted concurrently herewith. Should any other fees be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account No. 50-1432.

Respectfully submitted,



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